

PREFACE.

Of the present Volume, which forms the Register for the half year, ending on the 30th of June, 1803, it would, after what has been stated in the foregoing Prefaces, be unnecessary to say any thing, were there not now omitted a few of those heads, which are to be found in the Supplementary part of the preceding Volumes.

The cause of this omission, which consists chiefly of the Naval and Military Promotions, the List of Patents, the List of New Books, and the Account of Juridical Proceedings, is, the extraordinary length of the Public Papers, and the necessity, which their importance created, of inserting them entire, and in a type that would not render the perusal of them painful. In the next Volume, which will be less occupied with Public Papers, there will be room for most of the heads now omitted; though, as to some of them, it may, perhaps, be determined to exclude them altogether, for the sake of admitting, in their stead, matter more closely connected with Politics and Political Economy.

The Collection of Public Papers, relating to the dispute between England and France, is more complete than any other extant, either in English, or in French; and, besides the papers, strictly official, there are two which now make their very first appearance in the English language; one, entitled "*Observations on the King of England's Manifesto,*" the other, "*the King of England's Declaration, accompanied with Remarks.*" Both these writings, the latter of which is attributed to the pen of MR. HAUTRIVE, were first published in the *Moniteur*; and, therefore, must have received the approbation of the French government, if, indeed, they were not written and promulgated under its immediate direction. Be this as it may, they are of great public importance, not only because they treat of every point in dispute, bring to light many facts heretofore not publickly known, and display considerable ingenuity and force of argument, but because they contain the statements and the reasoning, on which the French government has

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rested its defence, and has committed its cause to the hands of the historian. The disrespectful expressions, made use of, in these writings, towards his Majesty, will, undoubtedly, excite the indignation of every British reader; but, as to the rest of the world, it is to be feared, that this circumstance will not materially enfeeble the general effect of these dangerous productions, which, therefore, should certainly receive, in some shape or other, an answer from His Majesty's Ministers.——

Another paper, worthy of particular attention, is, the Memorial delivered to the French government, by MR. LIVINGSTON, the American Minister at Paris. This paper, the object of which was to prevail on France to relinquish the settlement of Louisiana, is said to have been the work of MR. JEFFERSON himself; and, it fully discovers views, which have been long entertained by the French and some of the American politicians, and which demand the serious and immediate consideration of the British government.

It being the plan of this work to suffer each Volume to embrace no historical matter, which does not, for the first time, appear before the public, during the months, for which that Volume professes to be a Register, the Parliamentary Proceedings and Debates are, of course, brought down only to the 30th of June inclusive; but, the sequel of these Proceedings and Debates, together with the divers Accounts and a List of the Acts, will find a place in the Supplement to the next Volume, in which an humble attempt will be made to abridge, simplify, and elucidate, that voluminous, complicated, and confused mass of materials called Parliamentary Accounts.

To alleviate the labour of reference, in a work of such bulk, and of an almost endless number and variety of articles and of subjects, all possible aid ought to be afforded: an ample TABLE OF CONTENTS is, therefore, prefixed; and, to a very copious INDEX OF MATTERS are added an INDEX OF NAMES OF PERSONS and another of NAMES OF PLACES, from all which, it is hoped, great assistance will be derived.

London, July 1, 1803.

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☞ This Volume must always be bound with a HOLLOW BACK, and great care must be taken not to cut too much from the edges of the leaves. There is quite margin enough, if proper care be taken.